

The amount of support for this initiative has been nothing short of inspirational:

As the inaugural Jewish American Heritage Month comes to an end, national prominence of American Jewish heritage continues in communities across the country. In fact, many Jewish communities began their observances even prior to May.

At the end of April, the Jewish Museum of Florida held a press conference with several community leaders to announce the Proclamation's release.

At the beginning of May, the American Jewish Committee incorporated a celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month into their 100th Anniversary celebration here in Washington.

On May 11th, the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia honored Senator SPECTER and celebrated the establishment of Jewish American Heritage Month at their annual gala dinner. On May 23rd, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington hosted a breakfast reception in the Capitol where several Members including Representatives HYDE, RANGEL, CARDIN, BERKLEY, and LEWIS. And just last week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg recognized the conclusion of the inaugural Jewish American Heritage Month at a Jewish Heritage New York event at Gracie Mansion.

Like so many of the ideas that generate in this body, the creation of Jewish American Heritage Month all started with one community that wanted to make a difference.

I would like to thank two talented and dedicated women who helped lead this effort in Miami: Marcia Zerivitz of the Jewish Museum of Florida and Judy Gilbert-Gould of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington and its Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum, who brought the celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month to the Capitol Building.

I respectfully request that the remarks made by their Executive Director Laura Apfelbaum and their President Peggy Pearlstein be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

May 23, 2006 Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington event honoring the presidential proclamation of May as American Jewish Heritage Month.

Laura Apfelbaum, Executive Director:

Good Morning. I am Laura Apfelbaum, the Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington and its Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum. On behalf of our board of directors and members, I want to welcome you today to this very special event.

I think we all can appreciate that as Jews living in America we are called upon to have a little bit of knowledge about a lot of history—ancient history, biblical history, Talmudic history, and Holocaust history to name just a few. Lesser known in our community and less well understood are the rich stories of American Jewish history—the stories beyond our own personal history that tie us to the Jewish community and to the national American story.

In 1795, shortly after the site of the nation's capital was selected, the first Jew arrived in the new federal district of Washington. Fittingly, he was a real estate developer who built office townhouses for new federal government offices of the Department of War and State. Over the next two centuries,

he was followed by tens of thousands of Jews, all of whom have become part of our community's history. Their lives and deeds tell a unique story of both a hometown and a capital city.

The story of Washington's Jewish community is in many ways similar to that in other communities across the country. Many of Washington's early Jews, my great grandfather among them, arrived in port cities and to avoid the sweatshops of New York and Chicago made their way to DC to open small Mom & Pop shops—groceries, furniture stores, tailors, jewelers. The presence of the federal government had a profound effect. Their clientele included Presidents, Supreme Court Justices and Congressmen. The few who served in the federal government for the century preceding the New Deal gave way to a wave of young intellectuals who arrived to serve a burgeoning federal government in the 1930s and '40s.

By the 1950s many of the small shops had grown into large downtown department stores, Hecht's, Landsburgh's and Kann's or other stores that spread with the community to the suburbs. Along the way the Jewish community organized synagogues and Jewish communal organizations.

Continued growth and prosperity in the post WWII era and into the "modern" era have created a community that spans three jurisdictions—DC and the Maryland and Northern Virginia suburbs and includes more than 215,000 members. We are now the sixth largest Jewish community in the country.

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington is the nation's central archives for this special community. Our collections are open to community members and researchers. Our programs, publications, and exhibits recount our unique communal history—at once local and national.

We first learned of the effort to create a special month to call attention to Jewish American heritage from a colleague, Marcia Zerivitz, the dynamic director of the Jewish Museum of Florida. It seemed to us entirely appropriate to mark the creation of this special month by honoring the many representatives and Senators—our friends and neighbors—that introduced the Congressional Resolution that led to President Bush recently proclaiming May 2006 as Jewish American History month.

Presentation—Society President Peggy Pearlstein: Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Chairman Hyde, Chairman Specter, special guests and friends:

In 1654, 23 Jews fled Recife, Brazil, and landed in New Amsterdam (now lower Manhattan) in search of political and religious freedom. These men, women, and children were the first of millions of Jews to seek refuge in America—the vanguard of today's American Jewish community—now the largest in the world.

One hundred and thirty years ago on June 9, 1876, a small yet committed Jewish congregation gathered to see their dreams of building their own shul come to fruition. In the presence of President Ulysses S. Grant, they dedicated a small but beautiful synagogue building that stands just at the foot of Capitol Hill at 3rd and G Streets, NW.

That building has been a witness to the history of the Jewish community, our city and our nation. It stands as a testament to the endurance of our community and to the commitment we have to preserving and caring for our past as we face the future.

Our Jewish Historical Society is committed to restoring this special building and to educating our community especially its youngest members about immigrant history, city history, and the continuing story of Jewish life in and around our capital city.

To commemorate the 130th anniversary of our local treasure, we have begun a major

restoration initiative to ensure the buildings' existence for many years to come. The building stands as a reminder of where we came from and its legacy, an important part of where we are going.

You can learn more about our community at a comprehensive exhibit now on display at the National Building Museum through July 4th. This exhibit, *Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of An American Community*, recounts the role that Washington area Jews have played in American Jewish life and in the nation's history.

This past year, Representative Wasserman Schultz and members of her district coordinated a nationwide effort to support passage of a resolution calling for a Jewish American Heritage month. They were joined in their efforts by Representative Hyde and Senator Specter resulting in unanimous approval, in both houses of Congress for the resolution. In April, President Bush signed the proclamation declaring the inauguration of Jewish American Heritage Month in May.

We have gathered to celebrate this Presidential Proclamation and to honor the three members of Congress who introduced the resolution supporting that proclamation:

It is my pleasure to present each of them with a very special gift.

This is a tzedakah box that is a miniature of the historic 1876 synagogue which our organization stewards. It was the first permanent home to Adas Israel Congregation. I hope that it will remind you of our appreciation for your role in commemorating Jewish American Heritage.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 20th District of Florida.

Congressman Henry Hyde, 6th District of Illinois.

Senator Arlen Specter, State of Pennsylvania.

We also would like to take this opportunity to present a tzedakah box to President Bush and ask Jay Zeidman to accept on the president's behalf.

I want to thank everyone for attending what we hope will become an annual event.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "SOLAR UTILIZATION NOW (SUN) ACT OF 2006"

**HON. LAMAR S. SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the "Solar Utilization Now (SUN) Demonstration Act of 2006."

The "SUN Act" encourages state governments and private industry to team up to apply for federal grants. This will enable them to buy solar energy panels at nearly half the cost.

This bill is good for our energy security, national security and environmental security.

The answer to much of our energy needs comes up every morning. Solar power is clean, plentiful and has zero emissions and zero waste.

All states are eligible to participate and are required to contribute at least 10 percent of the funding. The federal government matches the grant at a maximum of 40 percent. The rest of the money comes from utilities or private industry.

Congress has a responsibility to help promote this new technology and I am pleased that this bill already has significant bipartisan support.